

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A suction device for use with an electrophysiology device, the electrophysiology device including a shaft carrying an operative element, and defining an internal fluid lumen and a fluid outlet, the suction device comprising:

a main body, a suction line extending through the main body;

at least one suction pod, a suction region being defined within the at least one suction pod and being connected to the suction line through a suction aperture formed through the at least one suction pod; and

a connector configured to removably secure the shaft of the electrophysiology device to the suction device such that the shaft extends through the suction region and the fluid outlet defined by the shaft is within the suction region.

2. (Previously Presented) A suction device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one suction pod comprises a plurality of suction pods, a suction region being defined within each suction pod and being connected to the suction line through a suction aperture, the shaft extending through a plurality of suction regions.

3. (Previously Presented) A suction device as claimed in claim 1, the suction line being configured to be connected to a suction source.

4. (Original) A suction device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one suction pod comprises a flexible suction pod.

5. (Original) A suction device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connector comprises a slot.

6. (Currently Amended) A suction device as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the shaft of the electrophysiology device defines a plurality of fluid outlets,] the at least one suction pod comprises a plurality of suction pods, each suction pod defining a respective suction region

connected to the suction line through a suction aperture, and the connector is configured to removably secure the shaft of [the] an electrophysiology device to the suction device such that the shaft extends through a plurality of suction regions[, and] with each of a plurality of fluid outlets defined by the shaft [is] located within a respective suction region.

7. (Previously Presented) A suction device for use with an electrophysiology device, the electrophysiology device including a shaft carrying an operative element, the suction device comprising:

a main body, a suction line extending through the main body;

at least one suction pod defining a bottom surface, at least one suction region being defined within the at least one suction pod and being connected to the suction line through a suction aperture formed through the at least one suction pod; and

a connector configured to removably secure the shaft of the electrophysiology device to the suction device such that a portion of the shaft extends through the at least one suction region and below the bottom surface of the suction pod.

8. (Previously Presented) A suction device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one suction pod comprises a plurality of suction pods, a suction region being defined within each suction pod and being connected to the suction line through a suction aperture, the shaft extending through a plurality of suction regions.

9. (Previously Presented) A suction device as claimed in claim 7, the suction line being configured to be connected to a suction source.

10. (Original) A suction device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one suction pod comprises a flexible suction pod.

11. (Original) A suction device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the connector comprises a slot.

12. (Previously Presented) A suction device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the connector is configured to removably secure the shaft to the suction device such that the portion of the shaft

extends about 0.5 mm below the bottom surface of the suction pod.

13. (Previously Presented) A suction device for use with an electrophysiology device, the electrophysiology device including a shaft carrying at least one operative element, the suction device comprising:

a main body, a suction line extending through the main body;

two longitudinally spaced suction pods, a suction region being defined within each suction pod and being connected to the suction line through respective suction apertures defined by respective suction pods; and

a connector configured to removably secure the shaft of the electrophysiology device to the suction device such that the shaft extends through the suction regions, and a substantial majority of the operative element carried by the shaft is between the suction regions.

14. (Previously Presented) A suction device as claimed in claim 13, the suction line being configured to be connected to a suction source.

15. (Original) A suction device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the suction pods comprise flexible suction pods.

16. (Original) A suction device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the connector comprises a slot.

17. (Currently Amended) A suction device as claimed in claim 13, wherein [the shaft of the electrophysiology device includes a plurality of longitudinally spaced operative elements and] the connector is configured to removably secure [the] a shaft of an electrophysiology device to the suction device such that the shaft extends through the suction regions, and respective portions of the shaft located between [the] longitudinally spaced operative elements carried on the shaft are aligned within [the] respective suction regions defined by the suction pods.

18. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

an electrophysiology device including a support structure carrying at least one operative element and defining an internal fluid lumen and a fluid outlet; and

a suction device including

a main body, a suction line extending through the main body,

at least one suction pod, a suction region being defined within the at least one suction pod and being connected to the suction line through a suction aperture formed through the at least one suction pod, and

a connector that removably secures the support structure to the suction device;

wherein the electrophysiology device and suction device are respectively configured such that the support structure extends through the suction region, and the fluid outlet defined by the support structure is within the suction region.

19. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the electrophysiology device defines a distal end, the connector comprises a slot defining a distal end, and the electrophysiology device and suction device are respectively configured such that the fluid outlet is within the suction region when the distal end of the electrophysiology device is adjacent to the distal end of the slot.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least one suction pod comprises a plurality of suction pods, a suction region being defined within each suction pod, the support structure extending through a plurality of suction regions.

22. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the suction line is configured to be connected to a suction source.

23. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.

24. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the support structure of the electrophysiology device includes a plurality of fluid outlets, the at least one suction pod comprises a plurality of suction pods, each suction pod defining a respective suction region within a suction pod, and the electrophysiology device and suction device are respectively

configured such that the support structure extends through a plurality of suction regions and each fluid outlet is within a respective suction region when the electrophysiology device is connected to the suction device.

25. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

26. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

an electrophysiology device including a support structure and at least one operative element carried on the support structure; and

a suction device including a main body, a suction line extending through the main body, at least one suction pod defining a bottom surface, a suction region being defined within the at least one suction pod, and a connector that removably secures the support structure of the electrophysiology device to the suction device; wherein the electrophysiology device and suction device are respectively configured such that the support structure extends through the suction region, and a portion of the electrophysiology device within the suction region extends below the bottom surface of the suction pod when the electrophysiology device is connected to the suction device.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the electrophysiology device and connector are configured such that the portion of the electrophysiology device extends about 0.5 mm below the bottom surface of the suction pod when the electrophysiology device is connected to the suction device.

29. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the at least one suction pod comprises a plurality of suction pods, a suction region being defined within each suction pod, the support structure extending through a plurality of suction regions.

30. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the suction line is configured to be connected to a suction source.

31. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the suction devices comprises a flexible suction device.

32. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

33. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

an electrophysiology device including a support structure and at least one operative element carried on the support structure; and

a suction device including

a main body, a suction line extending through the main body,

two longitudinally spaced suction pods, a suction region being defined within each suction pod and being connected to the suction line through a suction aperture defined by a suction pod, and

a connector configured to removably secure the electrophysiology device to the suction device;

wherein the electrophysiology device and suction device are respectively configured such that the support structure extends through the suction regions, and a [substantial] majority of the operative element is between the suction regions of respective suction pods when the electrophysiology device is connected to the suction device.

34. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 33, the suction line being configured to be connected to a suction source.

35. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.

36. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the support structure of the electrophysiology device includes a plurality of longitudinally spaced operative elements-and the electrophysiology device and suction device are respectively configured such that respective portions of the support body between the longitudinally spaced operative elements are aligned

with suction regions defined by the suction pods when the electrophysiology device is connected to the suction device.

37. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the plurality of longitudinally spaced operative elements comprises a plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes.

38. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 33, further comprising: a suction source adapted to be operably connected to the suction device.

39. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an electrophysiology device, the electrophysiology device including a support structure carrying at least one operative element, and defining an internal fluid lumen and a least one fluid outlet, the method comprising the steps of:

securing a portion of the support structure to tissue with a suction device such that the support structure extends through a suction region of the suction device;

supplying cooling fluid through the internal fluid lumen of the support structure; and

drawing fluid from the at least one fluid outlet of the support structure and into the suction device.

40. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 39, wherein the step of removably securing the suction device to the electrophysiology device comprises creating an interference fit between the suction device and the electrophysiology device.

41. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 39, further comprising the step of: performing at least one of a diagnostic and a therapeutic procedure after the support structure is secured to tissue with the suction device.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 39, wherein the support structure of the electrophysiology device includes a plurality of fluid outlets; and the step of drawing fluid comprises drawing fluid from each fluid outlet of the plurality of fluid outlets into the suction device.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an electrophysiology device, the electrophysiology device including a support structure, at least one operative element carried on the support structure, a fluid lumen and a fluid outlet, the method comprising the steps of:

securing a portion of the support structure to tissue with a suction device;

supplying cooling fluid to the fluid lumen;

drawing fluid from the fluid outlet into the suction device; and

vaporizing the fluid.

44. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 39, further comprising the step of: removing the fluid drawn into the suction device from a patient.